



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Dec 15

This Sunday, Dec 17 @ 9:00 am

Also on Buffalo United Methodist Church's Facebook Page & YouTube!

Prepare | Sermon Series

Anyone who has hosted a Christmas dinner or party can tell you, there is a ton of preparation that goes into throwing these holiday celebrations. Many of us find ourselves doing lots of preparing in this busy season of lights, tinsel, and wrapping paper. Yet, what are we really preparing for? Who are we really preparing for? This Advent, hear God's call: "Prepare!" – for the coming one, Jesus. Hear this imperative as an invitation to strip away all the fuss and ready your heart and life for the change that is coming when Jesus gets here.



This Sunday – Testify | JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28 To testify is to tell how our story is part of God's story.

Scripture Reading

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)



Next Sunday— Christmas Eve: Be Courageous |

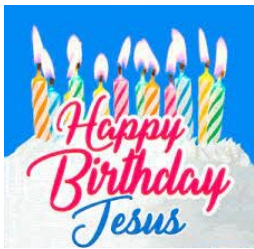
LUKE 1:26-38 God invites us to face the unknown with courage, like Mary did.

Sunday Fellowship Check out the coffee, treats and great conversation after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



Other Ministry Updates

- Dec 17** 9:00 am Worship with Handbells
 10:00 am Fellowship
 10:00 am Education Hour
 10:00 am Happy Birthday Jesus Party
- Dec 19** 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting
- Dec 20** 6:00 pm Confirmation Faith Night
- Dec 24** 9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am Fellowship
 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec 25** 1:00 pm Christmas Day Dinner



Happy Birthday, Jesus Party

Everyone's invited to celebrate Jesus's Birthday **this Sunday** after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we celebrate with

cake, games, crafts and a photo booth too! More details coming your way. Please bring any of the following items to donate in honor of Jesus's birthday celebration next Sunday: diapers, baby wipes, snack items for kids, cereal. All items will be donated the following week.

Sparkle Box

Have you noticed others doing kind things or have you done something kind for someone else.? Take a moment to write it down and put it in the Sparkle Box in the entry way. This will be our gift to Jesus on Christmas.



Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

We will be having our regular **9:00 am** Worship service and also a **5:00 pm** Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Please consider inviting a friend who may be looking for a place to worship. If you're not able to participate in person, you'll find the service posted on YouTube and Facebook shortly afterwards. On Christmas Day at **1:00pm** we'll host our **annual Christmas Day Dinner** with caroling at **12:30 pm**. Please invite someone who might be alone.

Christmas Day Dinner Help

It's not too late to volunteer for this wonderful community outreach ministry – our 26th annual dinner!! If you want to help with clean-up, come around **2:30 pm**.

2024 Christmas Offering

This year our Christmas offerings will go to the Emma Norton Residence and the Simpson Housing Services. Emma Norton provides housing and growth for women and families on their journey to recovery and Simpson Housing houses, supports, and advocates for people experiencing homelessness.

2024 Offering Envelopes Available

If you requested offering envelopes for the coming year, they are available in the entryway. If you want envelopes but don't find any with your name on, please write your name down and take a book.

Finance Team

We are currently \$2749 in the red. Please use these last two weeks of the year to complete your 2023 giving commitment. Please note, all 2023 contributions should be in by Friday, December 29. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving as we end 2023 and look to a new year.

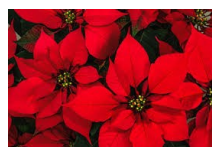
A new joyful, Joy to the World!!

This week in worship, we will be singing the Chris Tomlin version of Joy to the World! It mixes the traditional hymn with an extra joyful bridge! Take a listen so you're ready to sing along on Sunday!! [Click Here](#)



Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School on Dec 24 & 31.



Take Poinsettias Home

After Christmas Eve services are over, you are welcome to take home any poinsettias which you donated. Thank you again for brightening our sanctuary this Christmas season!